

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 21 to appear as follows:

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the enzymatic activity of interest is from an enzyme selected from the group consisting of lipases, esterases, proteases, glycosidases, phosphatases, kinases, monooxygenases, and acylases.

REMARKS

Claims 19-45 are pending in this case. Claim 21 is amended. No new matter has been added with the amendments. The addition of monooxygenases is supported by the disclosure as filed, for example Figure 11.

I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph because it is alleged that the specification, while being enabling for a method of screening DNA to identify lipases, esterases, glycosidases, proteases, and monooxygenases allegedly does not provide enablement for the use of such screening methods to identify glycosyl transferases, phosphatases, kinases, diarylpropane peroxidases, epoxide hydrolases, nitrile hydratases, nitrilases, transaminases, amidases and acylases. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action alleges that some of the enzyme activities recited in claim 21 are not enabled by the specification as filed because fluorescent substrates were not available for these enzymes. As conceded in the Office Action, the specification enables the use of fluorescent substrates for lipases, esterases, glycosidases, proteases, and monooxygenases. Applicants respectfully submit that methods for providing a fluorescent signal based on the presence of phosphatase activity, kinase activity, and acylase activity were also known in the art, or enabled by the present specification.

The disclosure as filed discloses the use of fluorescent substrates to detect acylase activity (Page 50, lines 21-25; FIG. 7). The specification indicates that several